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BPA moves 75-ton locomotive

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Bonneville Power Administration

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North Bend, Ore. – Working with local utilities and businesses on the southern Oregon coast today, the Bonneville Power Administration is helping move the historic Baldwin #104 steam locomotive from Simpson Park in North Bend, Ore., to the new Oregon Coast Historical Railway museum in Coos Bay, Ore.

A BPA rigging crew based at the Ross Substation in Vancouver, Wash., provided manpower and a massive 250-ton trailer to haul the engine. BPA's North Bend office also has personnel on hand to assist with the move. Yesterday, the crews successfully moved a slightly smaller "tender" car, which is used to supply fuel and water to the locomotive.

"We are extremely pleased to be a part of this huge effort," said Donovan Kauffman, BPA line foreman and project leader. "It's a good feeling to be able to give back to our community."

"This is a true community effort, not only for the BPA employees but also for the residents of Coos Bay and North Bend," added BPA Eugene Resource Manager Adelmo de la Cruz.

The engine, weighing 75 tons and measuring 40 feet long, and its 48-ton, 25-foot- long tender, are the subject of an extensive preservation and restoration project by their new owner, the Oregon Coast Historical Railway. They will be completely restored and inspected to make tourist excursion runs between Coos Bay and North Bend.

Baldwin #104 was built in 1922 for the Coos Bay Lumber Company. It pulled log trains up to 100 cars long from 1923 to 1954. In 1956 it was sold and remained on stand-by duty in Toledo, Ore., until 1960 when its owner, Georgia-Pacific, donated it to the Coos County Historical Society. Two years ago, when the Society decided to move to a new site that will not accommodate the train, the Oregon Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society began planning its restoration and move.

BPA is joined in the effort by the North Bend and Coos Bay police departments, which will close roads and direct traffic. In addition, local restaurants are donating meals; hotels and motels are providing free lodging for volunteers; area businesses are providing heavy equipment and supplies; and volunteers are flocking to the area to help.

The train will be located at 766 S. Front Street on Highway 101 in Coos Bay.

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